

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 31, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell  
Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 123 [Dental Care for Pregnant Medicaid Recipients]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 123 which authorizes both urgent and preventative dental care for Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant, or who become pregnant while receiving assistance. The House Committee report notes that inadequate oral health is linked to premature births and SCPD has attached corroborative materials which provide the following information.

First, research suggests that periodontal disease may be a significant risk factor for pre-term, low-birthweight babies. Second, pregnancy causes hormonal changes which increase the risk of developing gum disease. This is commonly referred to as “pregnancy gingivitis”. Third, pregnant women are at risk of developing “pregnancy tumors” which arise from swollen gums.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation given the benefits to pregnant women and developing fetuses.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

